

WVPEIA/WVCHIP

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

Billing and Payment Policy

The practice of Applied Behavior Analysis is defined as the application of the principals, methods, and procedures of the experimental analysis of behavior and applied behavior analysis (including principles of operant and respondent learning) to assess and improve socially important human behaviors. It includes, but is not limited to, applications of those principles, methods, and procedures to (a) the design, implementation, evaluation, and modification of treatment programs to change behavior of individuals; (b) the design, implementation, evaluation, and modification of treatment programs to change behavior in groups; and (c) consultation to individuals and organizations. The practice of behavior analysis expressly *excludes* psychological testing, neuropsychology, psychology, cognitive therapy, sex therapy, psychoanalysis, hypnotherapy, and long term counseling as treatment modalities.

Who is covered?

- √ Children from the ages of 18 months to the members 18th birthday (19th birthday for WVCHIP members) who are current PEIA or WVCHIP members.
- √ Member who has been diagnosed with ASD **prior to their 8th birthday** with one of the following *primary* diagnoses will be provided covered services which are medically necessary and appropriate:

Covered Diagnosis:

ICD-9 Code	Diagnosis
299.0	Autistic disorder, current or active state
299.01	Autistic disorder, residual state
299.10	Childhood disintegrative disorder, current or active state
299.11	Childhood disintegrative disorder, residual state
299.80	Other specified pervasive developmental disorders, current or active state
299.81	Other specified pervasive developmental disorders, residual state
299.90	Unspecified pervasive developmental disorder, current or active state
299.91	Unspecified pervasive developmental disorder, residual state

Provider Participation Requirements

WVPEIA / WVCHIP recognize the following types of providers eligible to **provide ABA services**:

- √ Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA).

- √ Board Certified assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA).
- √ Non-certified, unlicensed front line workers under the supervision of the BCBA (and trained by the BCBA and / or BCaBA) who has met the “Minimum Training Standards” as outlined on respective websites or who has obtained a Registered Behavioral Technician certification from the BACB. The BCBA or BCaBA MUST bill under their name and FEIN Number and reimburse the front line service worker.

Who can Bill and be Reimbursed for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Services:

- √ Provider must be currently certified, and in good standing with the National Board of Behavior Analysts as a BCBA or a BCaBA and must submit copies of their Certification and W9 forms to HealthSmart prior to receiving reimbursement.
- √ The BCBA and / or BCaBA is to assume billing and reimbursement for any services provided by non-certified, unlicensed front line workers.

Non-certified, unlicensed front line workers:

Throughout the treatment process the BCBA and / or the BCaBA are relied upon to collect, quantify, and analyze direct observational behavioral data through direct service, observation of implementation by the direct care implementers, and supervision and training of the implementers and family members. The BCBA and / or the BCaBA provides direct face to face training to all levels of staff and family members upon initiation of the plan and frequently throughout treatment as needs change. Currently, front line service workers are non-certified, unlicensed individuals selected by the BCBA. Neither the national board nor the State of West Virginia has developed a certification or licensure for these direct care staff. These individuals are most directly involved in actual implementation of an ABA plan. Skillful implementation requires knowledge and experience in various types of reinforcement and schedules of reinforcement in skill development, differential reinforcement of other behaviors, reinforcement of alternative behavior, behavior skills training, incidental teaching, and generalization and maintenance procedures among many others. Ongoing observation of implementation, training and supervision to maintain and improve the front line service worker's skill level in applied behavior analysis is considered clinical best practice.

Because of the nature of the tiered treatment approach of Applied Behavior Analysis both agencies recognize the need for reimbursement of those involved in treatment. In the absence of a standardized, formal training curriculum and public safety training criteria for these non- certified, unlicensed front line staff, implementation of ABA services is reimbursable but only to the BCBA or BCaBA. In the absence of a formal training curriculum by a national or state body, or certification, PEIA and WVCHIP have adopted minimal training standards for front line service staff. *These training requirements shall be met prior to any service utilization or care implementation.* The completion of standards must be met, documented in a personnel file by the supervising BCBA,

and be available for review upon audit. The BCBA must maintain files on each front line service staff for a period of three years. Direct, front line staff implementation of ABA services is reimbursable only to the BCBA or BCaBA. ABA Front Line Staff Minimum Training Standards document is available on respective websites.

Pre-certification of Services is Required:

- √ Pre-certification is required for ABA services (except Code H0031); requests should be made prior to services being rendered. We do not backdate pre-certifications.
- √ Precertification DOES NOT assure eligibility or payment of benefits under the PEIA and WVCHIP Plans. The provider *must* verify coverage prior to services being rendered.
- √ Requests for ABA services should be made only *after* a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation has been completed by a Neurologist, Pediatric Neurologist, Developmental Pediatrician, Psychiatrist, or a Licensed Psychologist experienced in the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders,
- √ Treatments (inclusive of ABA Therapy) determined to be medically necessary, appropriate, and ordered and prescribed by a licensed Neurologist, Pediatric Neurologist, Developmental Pediatrician, Psychiatrist, or a Licensed Psychologist for a diagnosis of ASD will be covered.
- √ If services are authorized, the member may have a financial responsibility. Please refer to the current Summary Plan Description for full coverage details. If services are not authorized, the member will be responsible for payment.
- √ Authorization will be pended if additional information is required to render a decision. The requesting provider will be notified if additional information is required.
- √ If services are authorized, the authorization will begin on the date the decision is made and will be valid for 6 months (3 months for WVCHIP).
- √ Pre-certification request forms and documentation should be faxed to HealthSmart at:

Fax Number: 1-806-473-2770
- √ A copy of the member's psychiatric or other evaluation confirming the member's primary diagnosis of ASD was made prior to the member's 8th birthday must be included in the precertification request for services.
- √ All service codes and units of service must be submitted by the BCBA on the precertification form and will then be considered for authorization.
- √ The treating BCBA must have a thorough knowledge of the member's current clinical presentation and his/her treatment history. Submissions from parents/guardians will not be reviewed.

- √ Any IEP/ISP issued by the school system must accompany a request for ABA services and a coordination of services is expected. If the IEP/ISP is unavailable the “Statement of Assurance” form documenting the lack thereof must be completed and submitted as a part of the request for ABA Services. The “Statement of Assurance” is available on the respective websites.
- √ Per Summary Plan Description (SPD), any family member providing ABA services to the member is not covered. Please refer to the current SPD for more information.

How to Bill:

- √ Claims should be submitted on a paper CMS 1500 form or electronic 837b form. Claims must be filed within six (6) months of the date of service to meet timely filing requirements (See SPD for additional information).
- √ Be sure the pre-certification number is listed in Box 23 to assure claim is not denied due to missing pre-certification number.
- √ Claims submitted for services performed by front line service workers must list the BCBA or BCaBA as the “Pay To” provider; list the front line service worker as the servicing provider along with his / her FEIN in Boxes 32a and 32b respectively, and the supervising BCBA or BCaBA should sign box 31 and enter his/her FEIN in Box 25 and list his/her provider information and phone number in Box 33.
- √ Invoices for services should follow billing guidelines presented in the Summary Plan Description, updated annually. Bills should be submitted to the following:

HealthSmart
PO Box 2451
Charleston, WV 25329—2451

Below are the allowable codes for Applied Behavior Analysis:

CODE	Description	Unit of Service	Maximum Units	Fee
H0031 BCBA Only Does not require precertification	Services provided by the BCBA (Analyst) that includes behavioral assessment or objective evaluation consisting of activities such as functional assessment of targeted behavior and analysis of behavioral data	Event	1	\$120.00 (Does not count toward max)

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H0032 BCBA Only	Services provided, by the BCBA (Analyst) that includes development of the initial ABA treatment plan; development of behavioral protocols , guidelines, methodology for intervention; collaboration with treatment team including therapeutic consultants to ensure that ABA strategies are consistently applied within all training strategies; training and supervision of the BCaBA (Assistant), front line service workers and family members to implement the plan by model training strategies; and, observation of staff and family to ensure proper implementation; re-assessment; evaluation and monitoring effectiveness of the ABA plan	30 minutes	40 Units/week	\$58.28
H2012 BCBA	Direct, individual ABA intervention services by the BCBA (Analyst) 1:1	15 minutes	*32 units units/day-160 units/ week in combination with H2019, H2014, H2014U4	\$17.43
H2019 BCaBA	Direct, individual ABA intervention services by the BCaBA (Assistant) 1:1	15 minutes	*32 units units/day-160 units/ week in combination, H2012,H2014,H2014U4	\$17.43
H2014 BCBA/BCaBA	Direct, group ABA intervention services by the BCBA or the BCaBA (Assistant) 1:2-4	15 minutes	*32 units units/day-160 units/ week in combination with H2012,H2019,H2014U4	\$11.79
H2014U4 BCBA/BCaBA bills for this service	Skills Training and Development, 1:1 by non-certified, non-licensed individuals for ABA plan implementation	15 minutes	*32 units units/day-160 units/ week in combination with H2012,H2019,H2014,H2014U5	\$5.50
H2014U5 BCBA/BCaBA bills for this service	Skills Training and Development, 1:2 by non-certified, non-licensed individuals for ABA plan implementation	15 minutes	*32 units units/day-160 units/ week in combination with H2012 H2019,H2014,H2014U4	\$2.50